

# HISPANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday March 24, 2004

Centro de la Familia

## MINUTES

### Present:

Carmelo Aviles  
Bernadette Wolfe  
Catalina Corwin  
Bernadette Wolfe  
Carl Hernandez  
Sonia Parker  
Barbara Melendez  
Jesse Soriano  
Silvia Castro-Thomas  
Elena Bensor  
Mark Wheatley

### DCC Present:

Leo Gonzalez, Hispanic Affairs Director  
Elizabeth Balcazar, Office of Ethnic Affairs

### Excused:

Norma Villar  
Daniel Gomez

### Guests:

Jennifer Sanchez, Salt Lake Tribune

**Welcome/Minutes:** Barbara welcomed all in attendance. Thanked Leo Gonzalez, Hispanic Affairs director, for attending the meeting. Jesse motioned to accept minutes from February 24, 2005 meeting, and Silvia seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

**Hispanic Advisory Council Elections:** Carl motioned that the council move item 3 (Office of Hispanic Affairs) to item #2 on the agenda. Jesse seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

**Report from the Office of Hispanic Affairs:** Leo Gonzalez introduced himself as the newly appointed Hispanic Affairs director to the Hispanic Advisory Council. He moved to the United States 15 years ago. He spent the last ten years in the private sector. He served as the co-chair of the community relations committee for Southwest Airlines Company. He was in charge of the funds that were donated to the community. In addition, he directed over 100 volunteers participation on community events. He indicated that he is familiar with the issues that face the community, and the difference is the approach taken.

Leo presented on the Office of Ethnic Affairs 100-day plan. The plan is divided into four stages. The first stage is the ethnic directors are meeting with the community, leaders, and some agencies. In his first eight days in the office, he has visited 5 different cities for town meetings. He reported that the average attendance in these town hall meetings is 200. He reported that the directors are going to be traveling to Orem, Wendover and Gunnison for town meetings. He reported that during these town meetings, the ethnic directors have meet with local city officials. He reported that the meetings have been great as they have received good feedback. In southern Utah, the community expressed that they are not involved enough, and would like to have some representation on the council.

### **Town meetings discussion:**

Gonzalo asked the purpose of the town meetings. He stated that those meetings were scheduled to ventilate SB 227. Leo replied that these meetings covered SB 227, and that each ethnic director had breakout sessions with their communities to discuss issues. Gonzalo commented that it was very important that the director not "hype" what he does as the general impression was that the director was only there to discuss

SB 227. He stated that the community is very sensitive. Jesse reported about the two town meetings he attended. He thought the Salt Lake City library meeting was good.

Leo explained the structure of the town meetings. He reported that some town meetings were scheduled separately in English and Spanish based on language needs. Bernadette provided feedback from Tooele County regarding the town meetings. She reported that the perception is that these meetings are about SB 227. Elena shared her feedback regarding the town meeting. She said that the structure of the ethnic affairs was not addressed at the Centro Civico Mexicano meeting where it was addressed at the Salt Lake City library. Jesse commented that there are several communities, and it is very difficult to give a message that all here are the same. In summary, Mark said that the discussion items in the town meetings need to be clear on what is going to be discussed. Leo stated that he appreciated the council's feedback on the town meetings. Catalina asked Leo if the Mexican Consulate has been involved with the town meetings. Leo responded that the consul has been participating in these meetings by introducing himself and sharing the mission of the consulate.

Carl asked Leo how he sees the council's role with Hispanic Affairs. Leo responded that the council is the voice of the community. Leo stated that he wants to work in partnership with the council. He would like the community to know that the council is the voice of the community. He will work to elevate the standards of the council as much as he can. Leo reported that department executive director would like the ethnic directors to work very closely with the ethnic councils. Leo referenced the 100-day plan, and how they plan to meet with ethnic councils to get feedback, and use that feedback when they meet with state agencies.

Leo stated that he read the council's minutes from last month's meeting. He commented on the possibility of creating a C501. He stated that he spoke with the department executive director on this item. He learned that it is not possible to create 501s since the council does not have funds.

Leo reported that Elizabeth would no longer be staffing the council. He reported that with the new changes in the structure that they will no longer operate as independent silos. He stated that the staff has been pulled together and will be shared by all. There will be a bilingual individual answering the calls. He stated that the funds are not going to be split among the individual offices, and the money will be added together into one account. Jesse stated that this merge presented a concern. As a council, he'd like to know where do they have an opportunity to voice as to how the funds are distributed. He will take this item to the department executive director. Leo assured the council that they will continue to receive support, and another individual will provide it. The council would like an organizational structure. Mark inquired about Luz Robles' role. Leo reported that she is the director of policy and research for the Ethnic Office.

### **Hispanic Advisory Council Elections**

There was discussion as to whether both members on the executive committee would be able to vote. Mark suggested that based on the opinion that there is no chair or vice chair that Barbara and Gonzalo be allowed to vote. Carl made a motion that all members present are allowed to vote. Bernadette seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

The following individuals asked to place their names on the chair ballot: Carl Hernandez, Jesse Soriano and Gonzalo Palza.

Each running chair took the opportunity and addressed the council members about their vision for the council. Following each candidate's speech, Gonzalo withdrew his name for the council chair position.

Bernadette motioned for a chair and vice-chair slate vote. Elena seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

There was a tie between Jesse Soriano and Carl Hernandez. Upon three re-votes, Carl withdrew his name, leaving Jesse as the chair. Carl was voted in as Vice Chair in the vice-chair election.

Jesse motioned to move agenda item four (Revision of Executive Order & Bylaws) to another meeting due to the shortage of time. Carmelo seconded the motion. Carl added that everyone examine the executive order and vote their approval to the motion.

No vote was taken. Jesse provided a brief explanation on the revision to the executive order. He said the revisions were made to strengthen the council. He reported that they removed the word "advisory" from the council name. Mark asked why advisory was removed. Jesse replied that term advisory is correct but somehow it diminishes the power of the group. Carl stated that the "advise" language is already in the body of the executive order. As for council operations, each council member would be required to serve on a subcommittee. There were other changes made, and Gonzalo will e-mail a copy of it to everyone.

Silvia asked if Gonzalo and Barbara remained on the executive committee. Barbara replied yes as the only openings were for chair and vice chair.

**Guest:** Jennifer Sanchez introduced herself as the new minority affairs reporter for the Salt Lake Tribune newspaper. She stated that she intends to write about minority issues and how they impact the community.

**Announcements:** Barbara announced that her law firm is sponsoring this month's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce contactos. She invited the council members to attend the network gathering on Thursday March 31, beginning at 5:30 pm. Her presentation will start at 6:30 pm, and the Governor will be there at 7:00 pm. She will provide the council with more information via e-mail.

Jesse made an announcement that former council member, Dr. Lombardo F. Palma of Prevention and Medical Screening Inc., would be offering free flu shots and vaccine shots. Jesse distributed a flyer with more information to each council member.

Silvia noted that the council has vacancies, and advertisements need to be placed for those open positions.

**Adjournment:** Jesse motioned to adjourn the meeting. Carl seconded the motion. Motion passed.